



# **BISMARCK FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

## CHIEF'S WELCOME

Welcome to our 2017 annual report. This report shows the fire department activity over the year as well as the vast amount of skill and knowledge required of our staff to provide the all hazard emergency response service to the community. We have experienced much change and growth and our team continually adapts and steps up to the challenges.

In the year we upgraded our firefighting fleet with three new fire engines, constructed a burn building to provide real fire training for our firefighters, upgraded our training program and are constructing a fire station. These projects are large and are very important for the community as they allow staff to continue delivery of quality emergency response services.

I am especially proud of the women and men of the department who are professionals that make a positive difference every day, no matter the day of the week or the time of day. Thank you for taking time to review our report.

Respectfully,

*Joel Boespflug,*

Joel Boespflug

Fire Chief



## STRATEGIES

### Emergency Response

Safeguard the community by providing personnel and equipment capable of effectively mitigating natural and man-made emergencies, which are common or have significant potential to occur in our communities.

### Prevention

Work to reduce the occurrence or impact of natural and man-made emergencies that are common or have significant potential to occur in our community by enforcing codes, planning, and educating the public.

### Administration

Provide the administrative organization processes and policies necessary to accomplish the mission of the department in order to provide the best value for the City of Bismarck.

### Workplace

Provide a work setting that helps the employees use their abilities to accomplish the mission of the department while fulfilling their professional ambitions.

## MISSION

To be an innovative leader in fire services and emergency management.

## VISION

To be a proactive organization protecting life and property for the City of Bismarck.

## CORE VALUES

### Integrity

Trust, adherence to moral and ethical principles

### Nice

Kind, pleasant, caring

### Commitment

Engaging, involvement, dedication

### Honesty

Uprightness, fairness, reliability

### Excellence

Talent or quality which is unusually good and surpasses ordinary standards

### Support our Neighbors

Lend a helping hand

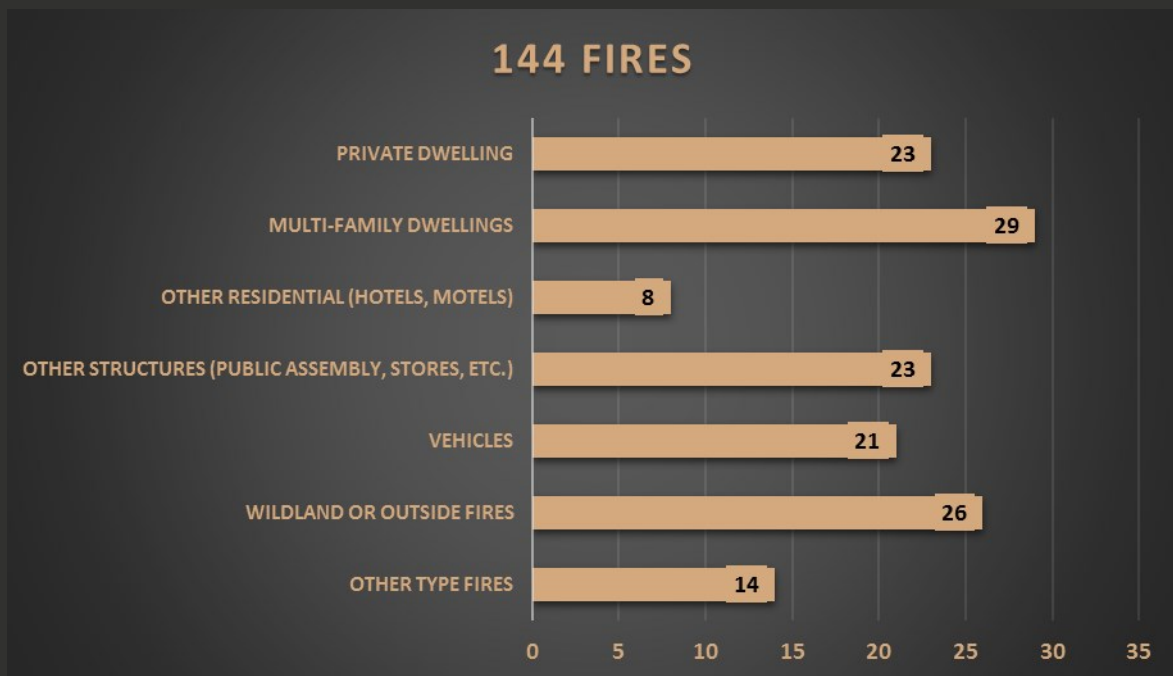
## 2017 EMERGENCIES

4364 Emergency Incidents

ZERO Fire Fatalities

\$75 million in property threatened by fire

\$5.5 million in property lost to fire



- ◇ 2971 Emergency medical and rescue incidents
- ◇ 601 False Alarms
- ◇ 84 Hazardous Material responses
- ◇ 47 Other hazard type responses (arcing wires, power lines down, etc.)
- ◇ 517 all other responses (smoke scares, ruptures, etc.)



## STATIONS

The Bismarck Fire Department has an ISO Public Protection Classification of 2. The fire department provides emergency services from five fire stations that are located across the city. Each of the stations are staffed with full time personnel.

Fire station location, efficient handling of 911 calls and readiness of firefighting staff are all important to a timely response to emergencies. In the year, we met our established response standards. We were on-scene with the appropriate resources in six minutes or less for over 93% of the calls.

The graphics on this page illustrate the fire station locations and the emergency response activity by station for 2017. The number of fire stations (or fire engines), that respond to an emergency depends upon the type of incident. For a smaller scale incident such as a vehicle fire, one fire engine responds from one station. For a structure fire involving a typical residential home, four fire stations respond with a command unit, four fire engines and a rescue truck. For a larger commercial structure fire, all

Station	Emergency Responses
1	1167
2	1175
3	569
4	688
5	765

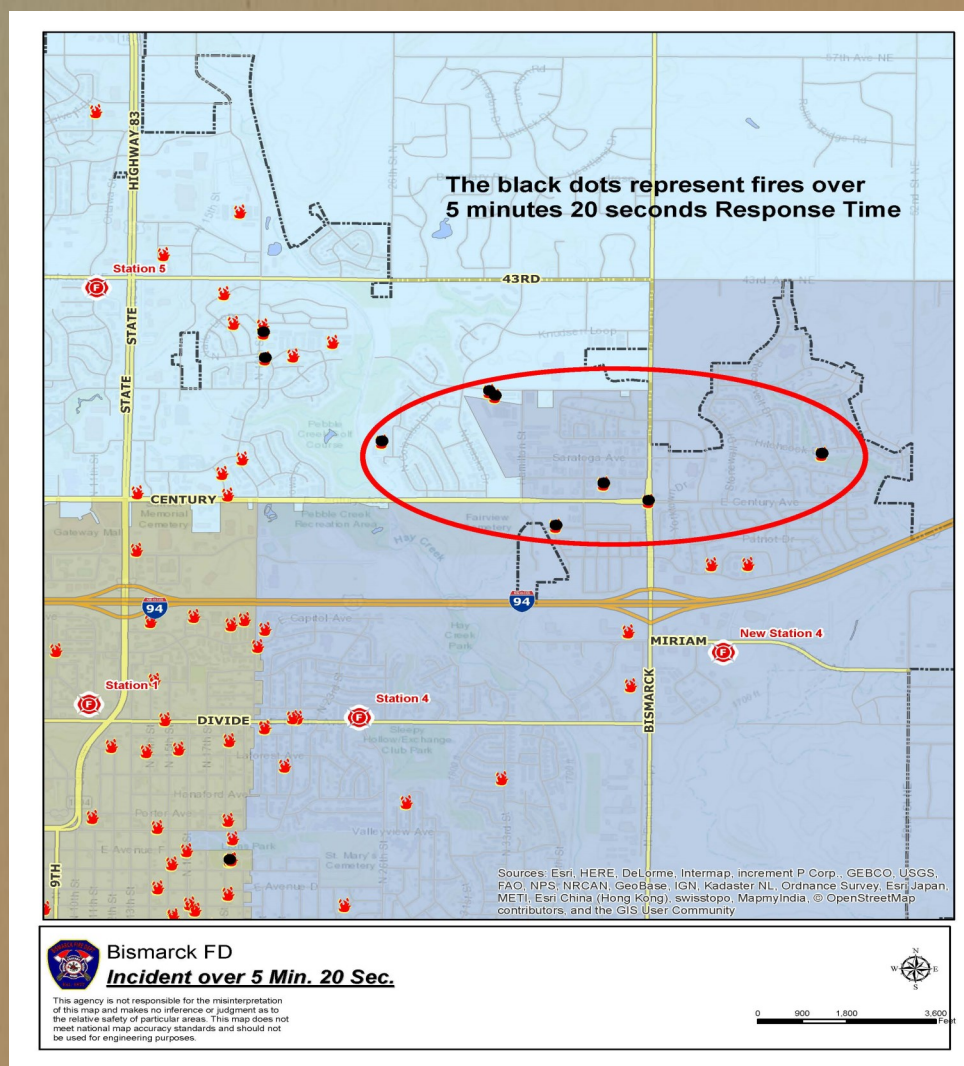
five fire stations respond with five engines, a command unit and an aerial ladder truck.

For the 4364 emergency responses, 1185 of these emergencies occurred at the same time as another emergency. The overlap of 28% in emergency calls increases the potential of a delayed response.



## RESPONSE/PLANNING

The Bismarck fire department continues to analyze data to help understand and improve fire protection in the city. With the assistance of the City's GIS department, the fire department examines many different statistics, trends and metrics. The map displays the number of fires in the northeast section of the city. The black dots are the fires that had response times for the first due engine over 5 min. 20 sec. The National Fire Protection Association standard says a department should be able to reach fires in less time than that 90% of the time. City wide the department met that standard. The area in the oval shows 35% of the fires that did not meet the standard were in this northeast neighborhood. This is one of the factors considered in the decision to move Station 4 from the Sleepy Hollow location to the new station on Miriam Avenue.





Take a look  
at  
What's New!

## TRAINING FACILITY

Bismarck firefighters will be coming face-to-face with flames in practice, thanks to a new training facility.

The fire burn building is a valuable tool that will train firefighters how to face stressful and dangerous situations.

Firefighters will be able to learn and maintain firefighting skills in a controlled, safe environment while being exposed to heat and associated risks of firefighting.

The 4,500 sf burn building will simulate house, apartment, industrial and commercial fires. The 4-story building has three burn rooms.

With the ability to do search and rescue evolutions, firefighters will be able to move the walls inside of the building so they can do different layouts for search and rescue operations.





Take a look  
at  
What's New!

## FIRE ENGINES

The department upgraded its fire fighting fleet. Three fire engines were purchased from Rosenbauer. Each unit has a 2,000 gpm pump with a mid-mount pump panel. The new fire engines replace a 1997 and two 2002 fire engines on the front-line.





## OUR NEIGHBORS — WING FIRE DEPARTMENT

A Core Value of the department is to support our neighbors. With the addition of three fire engines, we were able to provide the Wing Fire Department with a 1984 fire engine that had been serving us as a reserve. The fire engine upgraded the Wing Fire Department fleet, where a 1963 model was their newest fire engine.





## **FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM**



The department places a high priority on fire prevention. Fire safety inspections of buildings and events are one of the most effective means to providing a safer environment by reducing risk for the occupants. The fire code enforcement program involves on-site fire inspection of over 4000 sites each year. In 2017, there were 877 code violations cited and by the end of the year over 90% of them had been corrected. Plan reviews are conducted to ensure compliancy with fire codes.

The department continually disseminates fire safety information to the public through a number of media sources. Events are conducted within the fire stations, at schools, community social events, and at businesses throughout the year. It is estimated that these safety events were delivered to over 13,500 children and adults in 2017. In addition, fire safety messages are released throughout the year to the media potentially reaching over 100,000 people within the broadcast area. The department maintains an up-to-date fire prevention page on the City of Bismarck website. This allows Bismarck citizens access to information and resources regarding a variety of fire safety topics.



## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognized the City of Bismarck in 2017 for participating and obtaining a Class 8 rating in Community Rating System program. Various city departments led by Gary Stockert, City Emergency Manager, worked together to complete the application process to achieve the CRS rating. The CRS program is a voluntary program that recognizes and encourages a comprehensive approach to floodplain management. Residents and business owners can now enjoy a reduction in flood insurance premiums because of the city's participation.



*Pictured L-R: Jenny Wollmuth, Planner/Certified Flood Plain Manager; Carl Hokenstad, Director-Community Development; Gary Stockert, CRS Coordinator; Darrel Nucech, GIS Coordinator; Brady Blaskowski, Building Official/Flood Plain Administrator; Barbara Fitzpatrick, Senior Floodplain Specialist-FEMA Region VIII; Dionne Haynes, CFM-State National Flood Insurance Plan Coordinator at the CRS Plaque Presentation on November 13, 2017.*

The Emergency Management program is a proactive effort to best prepare the community, including city departments and staff, to work efficiently during large-scale disasters. Emergency Management coordinates an array of activities including training and exercise events, public education and emergency preparedness presentations, as well as the installation and maintenance of our city's outdoor warning sirens.

## ROPE RESCUE

In 2017, the rope rescue group continued to build upon skills and core competencies, as well as training on more advanced technical skills. Additional staff will continue to work into the group, focusing on Level 1 operations, with a goal of moving towards Level 2 skills.

Within the City of Bismarck, we have identified, preplanned, and trained at target hazards such as the Event Center, water treatment plant, water towers, communication towers, parking ramps, industrial sites and outdoor sites for low angle rescue.

After seeing the need for additional specialized equipment and items due for replacement from continued use, we were able to purchase the items that allowed us to maintain inventory, and further expand our rope rescue capabilities.





## STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE

This year the Structural Collapse Group was able to send staff to Fargo, ND for Structural Collapse training in the 3 disciplines of structural collapse (Shoring, Breaching and Breaking and Lifting and Moving). We also were able to send staff to TEEX (Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service) Disaster City for their Technical Search Specialist class which involved advanced techniques with listening devices, cameras and GPS's. The department serves the City of Bismarck and is a Regional Response Team for the state of North Dakota in structural collapse.





## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

This past year we advanced the hazardous materials training skills and knowledge of our personnel through several avenues. We have upgraded our monitoring and detection equipment over the last couple of years to make operations more efficient. The staff continues to look for new advancements in training and technology which allows us to be safer and more prepared when an incident does occur.

### Training

- Inner departmental training was conducted on the Hazmat IQ system, Hazmat Chemistry, PPE, Decontamination operations and Recognition and Identification of hazardous chemicals.
- Personnel attended the International Fire Chiefs Hazardous Materials Conference in Baltimore, MD.
- Personnel also attended technical training in Pueblo, CO at SERTC on Hazmat Technician and Crude by rail.
- Personnel attended the HOT ZONE Hazmat Conference in Houston, TX.
- “ND” Hazardous Materials conference sponsored by ND Department of Emergency Services.
- Training was conducted with the ND National Guard Civil Support Team in the utilization of Dry Decontamination Procedures.
- Personnel attended the Hazmat Technician course in Anniston, AL.

### Equipment

- Dry Decontamination equipment was purchased.
- New technology thru computer software and iPad Apps was implemented. It is useful in helping us gather information and monitor operations on scene.

### Response

- The department serves the City of Bismarck and is a Regional Response Team for the State of North Dakota in hazardous materials.





## WILDLAND FIRES

Personnel ensure response readiness for wildland fire incidents to include wildland urban interface risks.

Training is continual to ensure competencies and skill sets are maintained.

Maintain working relationships and mutual aid partnerships with surrounding departments.

Coordinate training with City Forestry on routine saw training.



## CONFINED SPACE

For every 10 persons killed in confined spaces, 6 are would be rescuers. Confined space rescue training is a high priority to ensure a high degree of safety and response readiness. This training involves hands on practical drills, as well as the pre-planning of confined spaces in our response areas.

Confined space examples in Bismarck include tanks, manholes, boilers, furnaces, sewers, silos, hoppers, vaults, pipes, trenches, tunnels, ducts, bins, and pits.



## EMT

All emergency response personnel are trained to the National Emergency Medical Technician level (EMT).

We operate within a coordinated tiered response system which includes Priority Medical Dispatching for the fire department response to medical emergencies such as persons having trouble breathing, chest pain, non-responsive patients, falls, stroke symptoms, etc.

We adapt to the community needs and have evolved our skills to aid in responses to numerous opioid overdoses which has resulted in numerous saved lives.



*Firefighters Rogstad, Miller and Earl train on EMT skills.*





## TRAINING

The staff continually train in order to gain and maintain skill sets. All the hazard functions performed by the department's emergency responders require extensive training. In the year, the firefighting staff averaged approximately 450 hours of training each. Training is conducted on fire suppression, fire prevention, fire investigation, EMS, hazardous materials, auto extrication, driving and operating emergency vehicles, high/low angle rope rescue, structural collapse rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue, and ice/water rescue.

*Firefighter Kron during a training exercise.*



## 2017 NEW HIRES



Matthew Earl  
Firefighter  
Date of Hire: 3/27/2017



Andrew Pomonis  
Firefighter  
Date of Hire: 4/17/2017



Cyrus Smith  
Firefighter  
Date of Hire: 8/28/2017

## PROMOTIONS



Owen Fitzsimmons  
Promoted to Fire Marshal  
4/15/2017



Reid Bogers  
Promoted to Captain  
12/17/2017



Frank Smith  
Training Captain  
12/17/2017



## ACHIEVEMENTS

The Senior Firefighter is a designation that has been earned through service, skills and abilities to mentor other staff. Thank you for the positive difference that you make in the department.

Effective November 14, 2017 the following firefighters achieved the designation as a Senior Firefighter



James Henes



Daniel Hurley



Michael Miller



Charles Pifer



Michael Rogstad



Darin Schadler



Jeffrey Underhill



Jon Zainhofsky